(c) if so, by what time the FIPB is likely to clear these projects; and

(d) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revamped Foreign Investment Promotion Board in its meetings is already considering foreign investment proposals and making apropriate recommendations on such proposals.

(c) and (d) Receipt of applications for consideration of FIPB and their disposal is a continuous process. The proposals are generally cleared within a period of 6 weeks.

World Bank loan for expansion of CIL projects in Madhya Pradesh

3337. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has provided loan to CIL for expansion projects and replacement of heavy earth moving machinery in existing coal mines/projects in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the projects have been identified for expansion in the State with the help of World Bank loan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Coal India Ltd. (CIL), have proposed a loan from the World Bank for a project entitled "Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project". The project *inter-alia* proposes to seek funds for heavy earth moving machinery etc. for expansion of mines in Madhya Pradesh.

Removal of infrastructural bottlenecks

333S. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to remove infrastructural bottlenecks for exports to achieve exports worth US $100 billion by the end of the Ninth Plan period as reported in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated 14th August, 1996;

(b) the suggestions/decisions taken at the 16th Board of Trade meeting held recently in New Delhi to achieve a minimum export growth of 25 per cent by India, annually; and

(c) whether Government have till date taken any decision at the said meeting on FICCI's suggestions for greater financial support for export sectors such as gems and jewellery and textiles which are not constrained by infrastructural bottle necks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Government is engaged in the continuous upgradation of export infrastructure. The Ministry of Commerce acts in coordination with the other Ministries, Departments and agencies for the purpose. Standing Committees on Promotion of Exports (SCOPE) in respect of air cargo (SCOPE-AIR) and sea borne cargo (SCOPE-SHIPPING) are functioning in the Ministry. These help to resolve constraints encountered in export transportation and to advise on long term strengthening of infrastructure. The Ministry of Surface Transport is upgrading the port infrastructure. Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) are being established in various parts of the country to facilitate container transportation of goods and intermodal conveyance. An Inter-Ministrial Committee accords

signlcrwindow clearance for establishing these ICDs and CFSs. An Open Sky Policy has been adopted to permit uninterrupted clearance of air cargo. Private initiative is being harnessed in creating infrastructure at ports, airports, in upgrading highways and in setting up of ICDs/CFSs, warehouses, etc.

In the meeting of the Board of Trade held on 13.8.1996 in Delhi various suggestions including need for improved infrastructural facilities, cheaper and adequate export credit, higher incentives for value added exports, etc., were made in order to realise an annual export growth target of 25% and to raise the country's exports to US $ 100 million by the year 2002. On behalf of the Reserve Bank of India, the arangements for flow of export credit to various sectors were explained. Export growth target have been proposed for each of these sectors including gems, jewellery and textiles and input support is provided in relation to these targets.

Gujarat State Minorities Development Finance Corporation

3339. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government propose to close down the Gujarat State Minorities Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure the economic and social development of minorities in that State;

(c) the amount released for Gujarat Minorities Development Finance Corporation in 1994-95, 1995-96 and the current year, the amount disbursed or spent by the Corporation during these years and the amount left unspent and refunded;

(d) whether other State Governments have also proposed to abolish said Corporation in their States;

(e) if so, the names thereof; and

(f) whether Government are taking any steps to set up any alternative corporation or organisation to provide finance for the development of minorities in these States?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) There is no Gujarat State Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, in the State of Gujarat. Therefore, the question of closing down docs not arise

(b) Gujarat Backward Classes Development Corporation, has been nominated as the State level channelising agency for implementation of loan schemes of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation.

(c) National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation has not been able to disburse any amount to Gujarat State channalising agency for want of State Government's guarantee and details of beneficiaries to whom loan is to be released.

(d) The Central Government has no information in this regard.

(e) Docs not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Adverse balance of trade

3340. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that we have an adverse balance of trade;

(b) if so, why are we again and again opening the country to more and more imports which can only make this balance more adverse; and

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that forty new items have been put on OGL as reported in The Times of India dated the '23rd August, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and